Social security benefits to workers

766. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to provide social security benefits to workers in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is proposed to launch the scheme on an All-India basis or the scheme would be introduced only in selected districts of States?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government has taken several initiatives to provide social security to the workers in unorganised sector through legislative measures and schemes under the Welfare Funds constituted for some specific categories of unorganised sector workers like beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. The Government launched the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2004 on pilot basis in 50 districts of the country early this year. The benefits included health insurance, personal accident insurance cover and old age pension. The scheme was not found viable and therefore it is being re-worked. One of the reasons was that it lacked statutory backing. Therefore, the Government is working to enact 'Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2004' to provide for among other things social security measures having statutory backing for the unorganised sector workers in the country.

Indo-US joint project on elimination of child labour

767. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to implement an Indo-US joint collaboration project for the elimination of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the project would be implemented in 20 identified districts of the country;